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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Bourne Grammar School

South St, Lincs ROAD

NGR: TF 09834 19520

Site Code: BOGS 00

LCNCC Accn No.: 2000.299

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Hyder Business Services

on behalf of

Lincolnshire County Council

Property Services

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

6. FEB 01

LAS Report No. 502

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Bourne Grammar School
Proposal for Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: TF 09834 19520

Site Code: BOGS 00
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Summary

Archaeological Investigation at the above site revealed two ditches which contained pottery dating to the 1st - 2nd century AD. They predate the currently accepted date for pottery production at the nearby kiln site and may therefore provide information on land use prior to the origin of the pottery industry in the vicinity.

Introduction

The following specification has been prepared for Hyder Business Services on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council Property Services in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998) and the Brief set by Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services dated November 2000.

Site Location and Description

The proposed development site is located within the grounds of Bourne Grammar School, South Road Bourne. The school is situated on the west side of the A15 to Peterborough south of the town centre. The site was occupied by temporary classroom structures at the time of excavation. Trench 1 was positioned over grass adjacent to the school playing field and Trench 2 through the Tarmac surface of a playground.

Planning Background

An application under the Town and Country Planning general regulations 1992 has been made by Lincolnshire County Council for the construction of new classrooms, art suite and drama suite as an extension to existing buildings. The application is to be determined after archaeological evaluation of the site has been carried out.

Archaeological Background

In 1959 pottery kilns were discovered during the building of an extension to the school, east of the present development. A watching brief in 1995 recorded further features of 1-3rd century date including pits and ditches. The site lies south of a housing development (on South Road) where archaeological excavations in 1997 revealed extensive Roman clay pits with later occupation remains.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation were to establish whether further evidence of Roman activity, especially industrial use of the area for pottery production or metalworking are present within the proposed development area.

- In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to
- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

Method

Recording Systems

LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models. A full written (single context) and photographic record will be made of the site, to include site plans at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20, as appropriate, and section drawings at 1:10.

A plan of each trench was made with section drawings of at least one side. In addition, further plans and sections was made of individual features, or groups of features, as appropriate. The OD height was included in all sections and spot heights on plans.

A full photographic record, in colour print, in 35mm format, was made during the progress of the evaluation to cover principal features together with general site views. Negatives will be stored in suitable conditions for long-term curation.

Evaluation Trenches

The Brief required the excavation of two trenches, one measuring 10m x 1.8m and the second measuring 15m x 1.8m as shown on Fig. 1, subject to the presence of existing services. Trench 1 was under grass between two temporary classrooms (Pl.1) and Trench 2 under tarmac east of the temporary classrooms (Pl. 5), Each trench was machine excavated, using a JCB excavator with a toothless dyking bucket, to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist.

Trench 1 was hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and

stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations should these prove to be necessary. Trench 2 was abandoned due to severe flooding.

Results

Trench 1

This Trench was orientated NE-SW and located within the footprint of the planned building. It was originally 10 x 1.8m but was reduced to 6.2m in length due to the presence of live services (Pl. 2). The archaeological remains were located at a depth of 0.80m below a deposit of topsoil (0.20m) and a mid grey silty clay subsoil, onto a natural gravelly silt. Cut into the natural were two ditches, the first (104) contained three sherds of Roman pottery including a sherd of imported amphora (Pl.3). A sample was taken from the ditch fill for environmental assessment (see Appendix 3). A small quantity of animal bone, four small Roman pottery sherds, a few pieces of charcoal and a single fragment of charred grain were retrieved. In addition, snail shells from the sample represented a variety of habitats including an aquatic snail which is characteristic of sites which are only seasonally wet.

The second ditch (106) (Pl. 4), which cut the first was very shallow, contained one sherd of Roman pottery. The dating of the pottery is likely to be early first to second century date (See Appendix 2).

Trench 2

Located to the east of the proposed building. Trench 2 was 15m x 1.8m. It was excavated through the playground area and appeared to have been built up in the past with 0.60m of overburden containing modern bricks and other building rubbish (Pl. 5). The natural contained much more clay than Trench 1. No archaeological features were encountered in this trench but cleaning and recording was impossible due to rapid flooding of the trench (Pl. 6).

Discussion

The primary interest in the site had been the Roman pottery kilns found in 1959 and the attendant features. Dating of the pottery from the present evaluation suggests that the features encountered are 1st to early 2nd century, which puts them earlier than the pottery from the kilns although earlier material in the area is not unprecedented with a stamped mortarium from the site dating earlier (see Appendix 2). The potential exists for revealing information on the land use prior to the development of the kiln industry.

Conclusion

Archaeological remains were located at a depth of 0.80m and any ground disturbance below this depth will impact upon the archaeological remains. The environmental preservation was good although the deposit had not been permanently water logged, but well-preserved environmental material is certainly a possibility from this site.

Acknowledgements

Excavations were carried out by Sue Farr and the author. Sue Farr prepared the illustrations. Naomi Field edited this report.

Mark Williams
Lindsey Archaeological Services
January 2001

THE APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Bourne Grammar School (BOGS 00)

Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description
101	topsoil	dark brown silty clay
102	subsoil	mid dark grey brown silty clay
103	Natural	Orange clay
104	cut	Ditch
105	fill of 104	mid grey brown silty clay
106	cut	Ditch
107	fill of 106	mid grey brown silty clay
108	natural	root disturbance
109	fill of 108	mid dark grey brown silty clay
110	natural	root disturbance
201	layer	Tarmac
202	layer	Hardcore
203	layer	Hardcore
204	layer	mid yellow grey clay
205	Natural	yellow clay
206	layer	Tarmac

A Summary Report on the Roman Pottery from Bourne Grammar School (BOGS00) for Lindsey Archaeological Services

B J Precious

26/01/01

The pottery has been recorded to the basic archive level according to the guidelines laid down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery using the computer codes and pottery recording system of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, and sherd count and weight in grams as the measures. The site archive has been collated using Microsoft 95, excel 5.0 (BOGSOO.XLS).

The site produced a very small assemblage of Roman pottery, 4 sherds - weighing 101 grams, from two contexts : 105 & 107. As the groups are so small with no rim sherds the dating is broad, ranging from the later 1st to the 2nd century. The flagon sherd from Context 107 is certainly of 1st century date, and the Dressel 20 amphora fragment from the same context is likely to be of the same date. However, the flagon sherd from 105 is higher fired and is probably of 2nd century date. The shell-tempered sherd from 107 is very similar to the fabric of other sherds excavated from Bourne Grammar School containing the punctate brachiopods associated with shell-tempered wares in this area (LCCM Accession No 24.61). Unfortunately it is a body sherd from perhaps a larger jar or bowl, given the thickness of the fragment, and undiagnostic of date, but likely to be of 2nd century date. It should also be pointed out that this sherd appears to have been burnt over the broken edge which could be the result of mis-firing in the kiln.

Swan, 1984 (Fiche 3.436) suggests a late 3rd - 4th (possibly late 3rd) century date for the Bourne assemblage, which is similar to the products of Greetham (Rutland Fiche 4.576). However, recent examination of the Bourne kiln material would suggest a 2nd century date, possibly the mid to the later 2nd century, for the wares. There is no secure dating evidence other than typological associations for these wares, but Hartley in (Petch 1962, 103-104 & fig 2 no 1) reported on a mortarium stamp found with the Bourne Grammar School kiln pottery. 'This stamp, LVGV DV is from one of at least eight dies or sets of dies used by ALBINVS', who was operating at Verulamium and whose dies are generally dated to c AD 65-90. The exact association of this mortarium with the kiln material, other than it being amongst the kiln pottery, is uncertain, and it may or may not be contemporary.

The date of the pottery from BOGS00 fits well with the date of the stamped mortarium, but the shell-tempered sherd is more likely to be at least 2nd century in date.

Condition

All the sherds are in good condition with no sign of abrasion. However, a flagon sherd from 107 is soft and inclined to fracture. This is due to the firing temperature which produced a soft powdery fabric rather than soil conditions or taphonomic processes.

Further Work

The pottery should be retained for further work, especially as it is from a kiln site. As the flagon sherd from Context 107 is fragile it should be protected with appropriate packing.

References

Petch D 1962 'Archaeological Notes for 1961' *Lincolnshire Archit and Archaeol Society*

Swan V G 1984 *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain* Royal Commission on Historical Monuments Supplementary Series 5

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	DEC	VESS	DRAW	COND	COMMENTS	JOIN	SHS	WEIGHT
105	SLCR	F					BS;HIGHER FIRED		1	10
105	ZZZ						SLCR ONLY;PROB 2C			
105	ZDATE						2C			
107	SLCR	F					BS;POWDERY 1C FAB (BROKEN INTO 3)		1	5
107	DR20	A					BS; EFAB ; V THIN WALL; 1STC		1	61
107	SLSH	JBL				BURNTE	BS;PUNC BRACHS;THICKISH;L1 -2C+		1	25
107	ZZZ						SMALL GROUP SOME 1STC			
107	ZDATE						L1-2C			

Bourne Grammar School – BOGS00

Environmental Archaeology Assessment

Introduction

Evaluation excavations were conducted by a team from Lindsey Archaeological Services at Bourne Grammar School, Bourne. During the course of the excavation a 1st Century AD Roman ditch was uncovered and a 14 litre soil sample taken from its fills for environmental assessment.

Methods

The soil sample was processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and float were dried and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material and mollusc shells. The dry volume of the float was measured, and the volume and weight of the residue recorded.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residue was then discarded. The float was studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The float was then bagged. The float and finds from the sorted residue constitute the material archive of the sample.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are discussed below.

Results

The sample was taken from context 105, a 1st century AD ditch fill. The deposit was primarily composed of clay/silt with a few flint and stone fragments and archaeological inclusions. The residue was largely composed of concreted clay/silt sediment crumb.

Four small sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the residue, two pieces of hammerscale and a few bone fragments and small vertebrate bones, among which frog/toad and vole can be identified. The float produced very small quantities of charcoal, a single unidentifiable fragment of charred cereal grain and relatively frequent snails shells.

The latter included the following taxa: *Hygromia hispida*, *Helix aspersa*, *Cochlicopa lubrica*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Vallonia costata*, *Vertigo pygmaea*, *Oxychilus alliarus*, *Discus rotundatus*, *Lymnaea truncatula* and *Planorbis leucostoma*. This assemblage contains taxa characteristic of a variety of habitats including open country/grassland, woodland/shaded environments and marsh. The aquatic snail *Planorbis leucostoma* is characteristic of ponds and ditches that tend to dry up and the absence of other aquatic taxa suggests that the ditch was probably only seasonally water filled.

Discussion

The deposit within the ditch includes relatively low densities of probable domestic rubbish in the form of animal bone, charred cereal, charcoal and pottery. Their density is not sufficient to indicate primary dumping and probably derives from accidental or haphazard dispersal of debris in the area. The two pieces of hammerstone testify to iron smithing taking place in the area but do not indicate that this is taking place in the proximity of the sampled feature.

The condition of the bone, charred plant remains and mollusc shells indicate that survival is good and where suitable deposits occur palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic information will be extractable from the deposits. There was no evidence of any waterlogged plant and insect material and none is likely unless the features go substantially deeper than this ditch.

Acknowledgments

We should like to thank Paul Westron for the sample processing.

Bibliography

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Macan, T.T. 1977 *A Key to the British Fresh- and Brackish-water Gastropods*. FBA Scientific Publication No. 13.
Williams, D. 1973 Flotation at Siraf, *Antiquity*, 47, 198-202

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16th January 2001

THE FIGURES AND PLATES

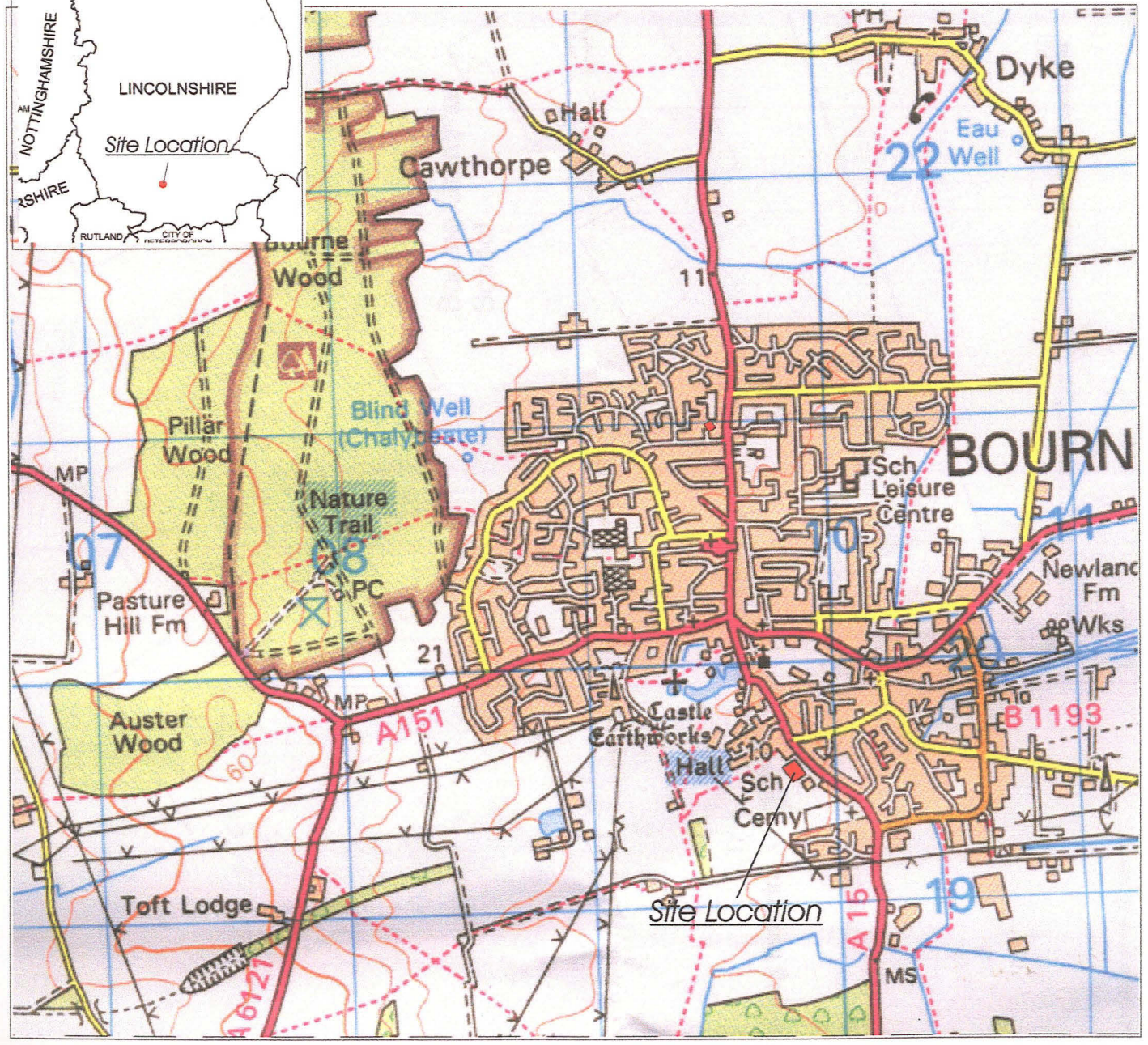
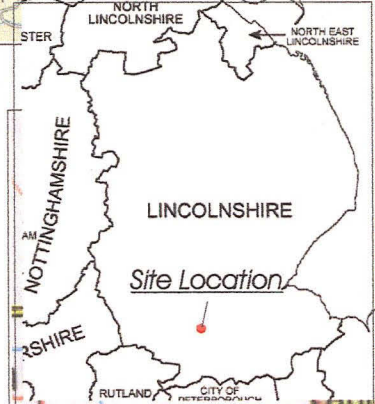
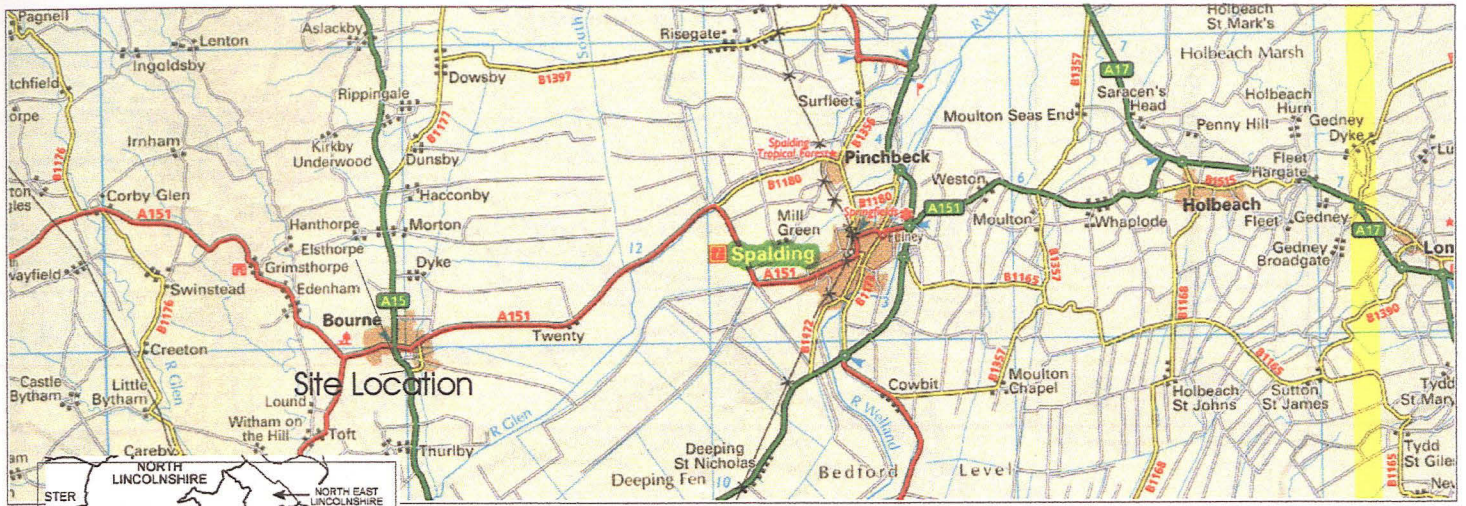


Figure 1: Location of Bourne Grammar School, Inset c reproduced from O.S 1: 50 000 Map with the permission of HMSO Controller map Licence no AL 50424A.

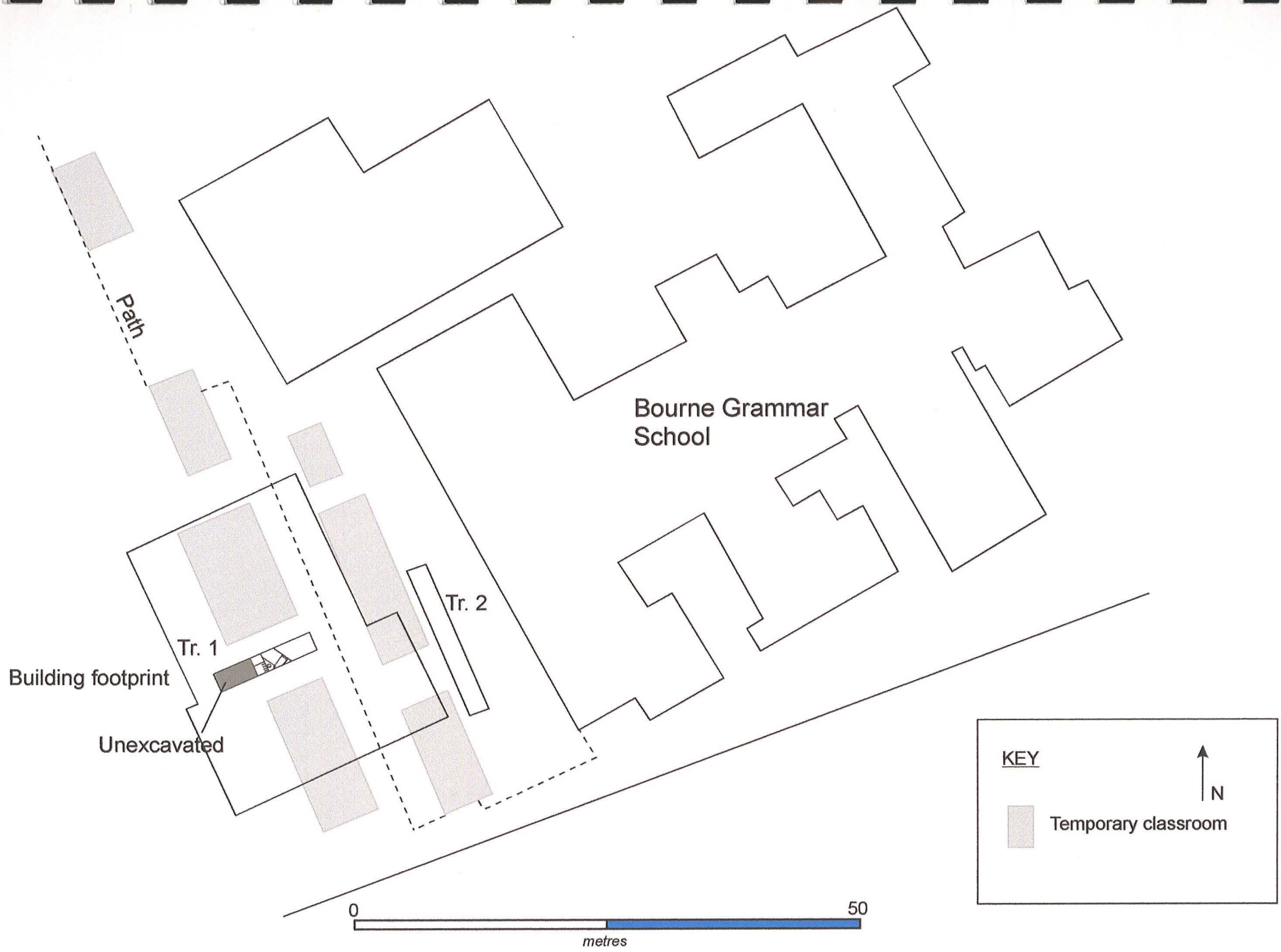


Fig.1 Location of Trenches.

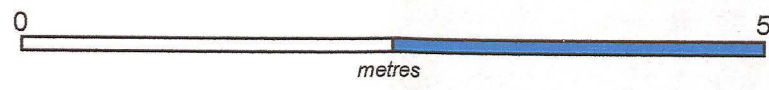
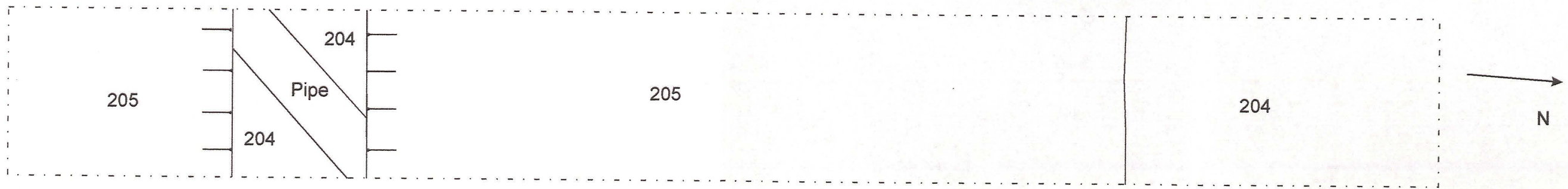
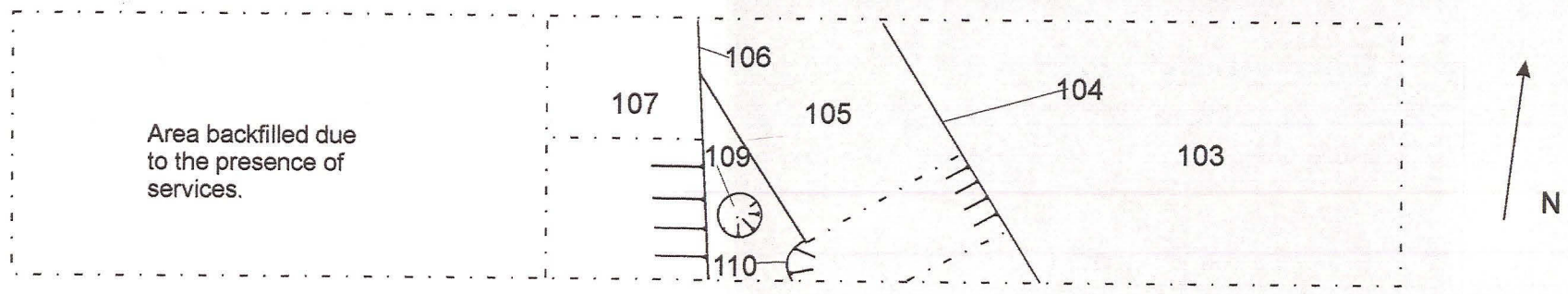


Fig. 3 Plans of Trenches 1 & 2.

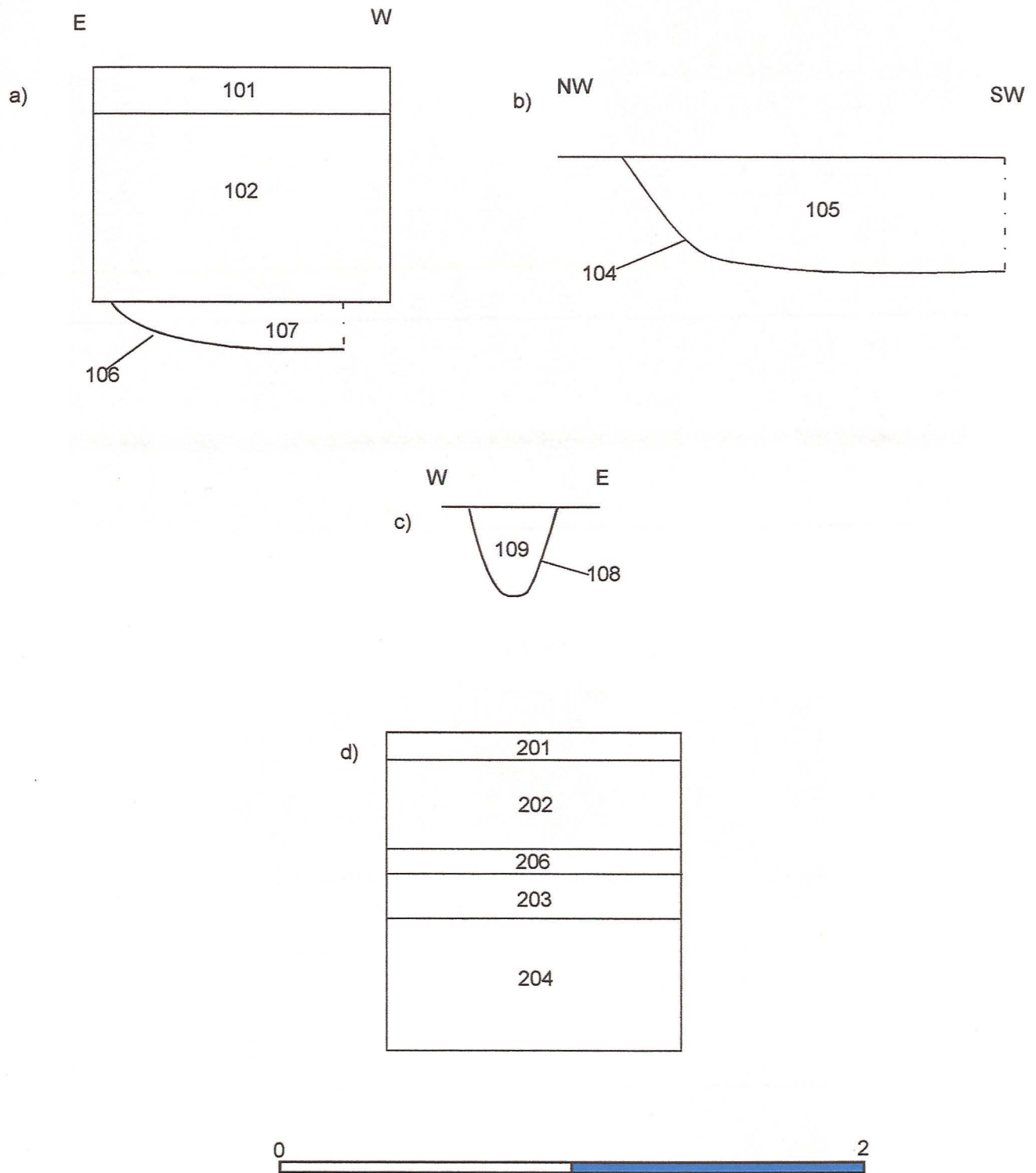


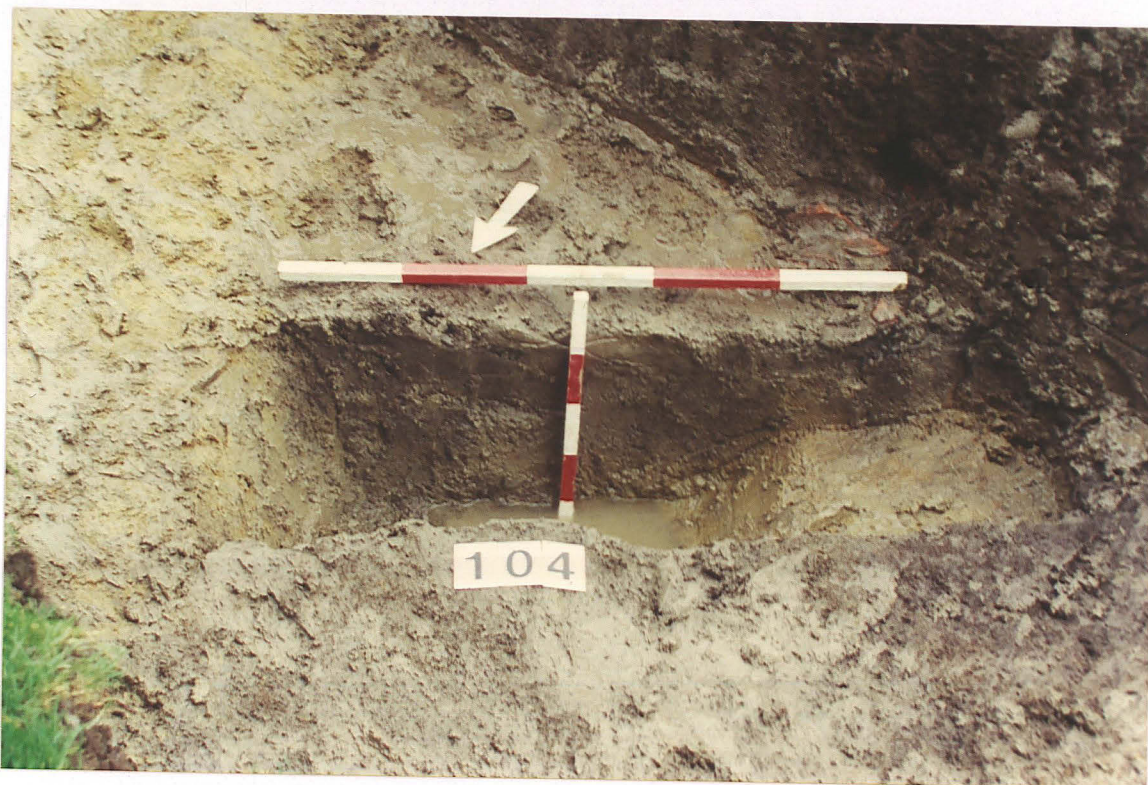
Fig. 4 Sections of features in Trench 1 and section of Trench 2



Pl. 1 Trench 1 during excavation

Pl. 2 Trench 1 looking west after excavation





Pl. 3 Ditch 104 looking south, horizontal scale 0.50m vertical scale 0.25m

Pl. 4 Ditch 106 looking north, horizontal scale 0.25m vertical scale 0.50m





Pl. 5 Location of Trench 2

Pl. 6 Trench 2 after excavation showing flooding.

